

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY & COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME

DATE: September 22, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Champagne
 O'Connor
 Mason
 Geraghty

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Haskell
 Tessier

Vacant: Town of Queensbury

Others Present:

Representing Westmount Health Facility:
 Hal Payne, Administrator
Representing CSEA:
 Mark Stipano, Industrial Hygiene Specialist
 Jon Premo, Labor Relations Specialist
William H. Thomas, Chairman
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
JoAnn McKinstry, Confidential Secretary to
 Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal
 Services
Amy Clute, Administrator, Self-Insurance
David Strainer, Town of Queensbury
Debra L. Schreiber, Legislative Office Specialist

In the absence of Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Mason, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2006 Westmount Health Facility Committee Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Payne, who distributed copies of his agenda packet to members of the committee, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Referring to the agenda, Item 1 under Countryside Adult Home, Mr. Payne reported the installation of the septic system had been completed but they were experiencing odor difficulties. He indicated the contractor and engineer had visited the site to correct the situation.

With respect to the Siemen's project, Mr. Payne advised the contracts had been executed and the windows were being ordered. He stated he assumed the County would remove the old windows but they were attempting to locate a private contractor to perform the installation so the warranty would be more viable.

Mr. W. Thomas and Mr. Gabriels exited the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Turning to the Westmount Health Facility agenda, Mr. Payne submitted three requests to transfer funds within the Westmount Health Facility budget totaling \$16,880 for various appropriations.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously authorizing all three requests for transfer of funds as outlined and the same be forwarded to the Finance Committee. Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.

Mr. W. Thomas entered the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Continuing on with Item 2 of the Westmount Health Facility agenda, Mr. Payne requested to amend the 2006 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$300 and \$800 respectively to reflect receipt of the HCRA (Health Care Reform Act) Recruitment and Retention Grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously authorizing the request to amend the 2006 County budget as outlined and the same be forwarded to the Finance Committee. Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.

With respect to Item 3 on the agenda, Mr. Payne apprised the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) had invited him to attend the annual conference in San Francisco, California from November 5 - 9, 2006. He expounded there were funds available within their budget for travel and lodging and AAHSA would pay the registration fee.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the request as submitted, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes

Mr. Payne advised Eden Park Nursing Home and The Stanton were the only local facilities that held Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training. He stated the local administrators recently met and expressed an interest in entering into a contract with B.O.C.E.S. (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) to offer a three week CNA training program. He commented they would then hire an employee, pay minimum wage and tuition to attend the training program at B.O.C.E.S. and upon completion of the program they would become a CNA at Westmount/Countryside.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Geraghty authorizing a contract with B.O.C.E.S. for a three week CNA training program.

Mr. O'Connor queried whether the County was prohibited from requiring that an employee guarantee their length of employment. Mr. Champagne suggested Mr. Payne confer with Paul Dusek, County Attorney, relative to a possible employment contract in lieu of training/tuition.

Mr. O'Connor stated he would withdraw his pending motion. The consensus of the committee was for Mr. Payne to further discuss this issue with Mr. Dusek.

With respect to the staffing levels, Mr. Payne reported they were short three people on the three to eleven shift. Based upon an overtime report he prepared, Mr. Payne indicated Countryside Adult Home was running close to budget; however, Westmount Health Facility was approximately \$15,000 under budget.

Mr. Payne apprised that Mark Stipano, Industrial Hygiene Specialist and Jon Premo, Labor Relations Specialist, of CSEA (Civil Service Employees Association) were present to update the committee on the overhead lifts.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jon Premo who expressed his sincere gratitude over the

reallocation that the Board of Supervisors approved for employees in Warren County. Mr. Champagne thanked Mr. Premo and his organization for their efforts.

Mr. W. Thomas exited the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Mr. Premo related a personal story about his dad and their experience with a private nursing home, but said he was here today to support the needs of nursing homes to make life a little easier. Mr. Premo said he gave strong consideration to the educational requirement for personal training, but the hiring qualifications and those types of requirements must be negotiated with the union. He stated his organization would continue to assist the County to make everyday situations better. While he said he understood the supervisors answered to the constituents on how funds were spent, he asked the members of the committee to think about the human side.

Based upon information supplied by Mr. Payne and Amy Clute, Administrator, Self-Insurance, Mr. Stipano stated he prepared a Worker's Compensation Loss Summary Table that reflected Warren County had steadily decreased their costs over the past two years for injuries that occurred when employees were moving patients/people. He noted from 1996 through 1998, the costs steadily increased; however, he said the injuries which drove up the costs could not be prevented.

Mr. Stipano reviewed the many benefits derived from installing these overhead lifts including fewer resident injuries, reduced staffing and turnover, as well as increased hiring flexibility and return to work capability. Mr. Stipano asked the committee members for a resolution authorizing the installation of ceiling lifts for 30 beds. In addition, he said, new legislation had recently passed that offered funding to install these lifts in nursing homes. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Stipano replied it cost approximately \$2,500 per room or \$75,000 for 30 beds; however, he added, Westmount Health Facility required little or no remodeling to accommodate these new lifts.

Mr. Mason commented he had been a proponent of these lifts but he recalled the committee being split in the past on the number of rooms requiring lifts. Mr. O'Connor added their mission was to convince the Budget Officer to put this request in the 2007 Budget. Rather than install the overhead lifts in all rooms, Mr. Payne suggested installing the lifts in only a percentage of the rooms; however, he said, he was skeptical because the Budget Officer was looking to decrease costs instead of increase.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously authorizing the request to install overhead lifts for 30 beds be included in the 2007 Budget Request. The request was referred to the Budget Committee. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

There being no further business before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Mr. Champagne adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Schreiber
Legislative Office Specialist